

CONGRESSMAN SHERWOOD BOEHLERT (R-NY)
REMARKS TO BOEING TECHNOLOGY EXPOSITION AND EXCHANGE
GRIFFISS BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY PARK
JUNE 2, 2005

I want to thank to everyone from the Boeing Company for coming today and want to thank Bob Krieger, President of Boeing's world-renowned Phantom Works for coming today. Two years ago, Jim Albaugh visited Rome at my request to see firsthand the leading-edge technologies being developed at the Air Force Research Laboratory. We spent the day at the Lab and he was overwhelmed with the excellent world-class research he saw.

Since that day, Boeing has become an important partner with Rome in areas such as satellite control, information assurance and airborne communications. Today's event proves once again that Rome is the place for the most innovative technologies for defense and homeland security.

In 21st century warfare, winning and losing is not necessarily contingent on who has the biggest force but who has the best science and technology. I am proud to say that much of this science and technology is right here in the Mohawk Valley.

It is often assumed that the military should be relying more and more on innovations flowing from the IT industry and this assumption is correct—to a point. What this fails to recognize is where industry got those innovations in the first place. Chances are the original breakthroughs came from right here at Rome—often the result of many years of research. For example, innovations such as the early groundbreaking work in software-defined radio, now the Joint-Tactical Radio System resulted from years of work at Rome.

That research excellence is why Boeing is here today. Led by Boeing's famous Phantom Works, the Boeing Company knows that it must have access to the most cutting-edge technologies in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Where do they find those technologies, those new ideas? Right here in the Mohawk Valley at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

With an annual budget that exceeds \$650 million from sources across the Department of Defense, the intelligence community and beyond, Rome Lab conducts groundbreaking research in transformational areas such as information technology, biotechnology and nanotechnology. This leading-edge work is being done not on a large military installation with high overhead costs, but in a brand-new, state-of-the-art laboratory facility on a private sector business and technology park co-located with a cluster of affiliated private sector research and development firms.

That is what today's Expo is all about. This event enables top Air Force researchers at Rome to interact with top industry experts. It helps the Rome researchers understand the capabilities of Boeing and it also helps Boeing researchers understand the military's future requirements in command, control and communications. It's a classic win-win.

Thank you to all for coming today. Welcome to Rome!